

Message Text

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FOR EUR/CE - BRUCE FLATIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (CREISKY, BRUNO) AUG

SUBJECT: KREISKY VISIT TO US -- BACKGROUND PAPER --
AUSTRIA AND INTERNATIONAL OIL SITUATION

REF: VIENNA 8873

1. AUSTRIA WEATHERED THE OIL CRISIS OF LAST WINTER BETTER THAN MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THIS WAS DUE IN PART TO THE FACT THAT ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF AUSTRIA'S CRUDE OIL REQUIREMENTS COME FROM WELLS LOCATED WITHIN AUSTRIA. FURTHER, AUSTRIA WAS ABLE TO DRAW VIRTUALLY UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLIES FROM THE NEAR EAST. AT PRESENT, AUSTRIA IS ENGAGED IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR LONG-TERM CRUDE AND NATURAL GAS ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY WITH IRAN, ALGERIA AND USSR. INCREASED PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIET UNION OF NATURAL GAS AND EVENTUALLY CRUDE OIL ARE ENVISAGED. (AUSTRIA ALREADY MEETS ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ITS NATURAL GAS REQUIREMENTS FROM THE USSR.)

2. AUSTRIAN POLICY IS TO KEEP ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES
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OF SUPPLY OPEN, AND THUS NO CHANGES ARE ANTICIPATED

FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES THAT OPERATE HERE IN COLLABORATION WITH AUSTRIA'S NATIONAL OIL COMPANY.

3. THE IMPACT OF INCREASED OIL PRICES ON THE AUSTRIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IS SUBSTANTIAL BUT THUS FAR NOT CRITICAL. AUSTRIANS GENERALLY FAVOR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT LOWER OIL PRICES AND BELIEVE THIS CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A DIALOGUE BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. HUMES

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